

Not offered - Hirota

not used



REF. DOC. #2026

EXHIBIT # _____

SUBJECT: Conversation Between Vice-Minister HORINOUCHI and
the New British Ambassador to China

(Sept. 8, 1936 -- Notes by Shimazu)

On Sept. 8, Vice-Minister Horinouchi, acting for the Minister (due to a slight illness), held a conversation with the new British Ambassador to China, Sir Hugh M. Knatchbull-Hugessen (Ambassador Clive also present).

1. The Vice-Minister first explained that although there are some people disposed against CHIANG KAI-SHEK in Japan, the Government has no intention of rejecting him, its policy being to conduct necessary negotiations with the Nanking Government; that unfortunately, the CHENGTU incident occurred at the moment Ambassador Kawagoe was preparing to open negotiations for the improvement of Sino-Japanese relations; that it is clear that this incident is one manifestation of the underlying anti-Japanese current, and there is no question but that the Nanking Government should be held responsible for it; that it is the policy of the Japanese Government for the settlement of this incident, in order to rectify that underlying cause of the incident, to make the Nanking Government adopt with sincerity effective measures voluntarily for the total suppression of anti-Japanese activities;

DEF. DOC. #2026

that it is his hope that, with this as a turning point, negotiations concerning other problems will progress more speedily.

2. Secondly, with regard to North China, he explained: it goes without saying that the Government wishes to see the situation improved, and in this connection, since WANG KEH-MIN has recently gone north to participate in the Hopei-Chahar regime, the Japanese are hoping that he will contribute greatly to the improvement of the situation, serving as a connecting link hereafter between Nanking and North China.

3. He said that the Japanese Government are for greater Anglo-Japanese cooperation in China and are confident that it is possible to discover means of adjusting the interests of Great Britain and Japan in China, and accordingly our agencies in China will endeavor to cooperate with him (the new Ambassador) hereafter along these lines; that the Japanese Government welcome him to his new post with great expectations.

4. Ambassador Knatchbull-Hugessen expressed his satisfaction to learn that the Japanese Government are willing to deal with CHIANG KAI-SHEK in their attempt to adjust Sino-Japanese relations, since as far as he knew, there was no one among the Chinese who could with responsibility handle the difficult situation other than CHIANG. He was of the opinion that an improvement of the situation through friendly talks between Japan and China would be

DEF. DOC. #2026

a matter of gratification not only for the two countries but also for other nations having interests in China.

5. The Ambassador next assured of the willingness on the part of the British to cooperate with the Japanese in China. In this connection he said he talked with Leith-Ross prior to his departure, who was most gratified over the result of his second visit to Japan which helped to bring about an even closer mutual understanding and effectuating of the matters he desired, and was especially satisfied that on the question of Maritime Customs personnel almost complete understanding had been reached between Great Britain and Japan. He wished to confirm his understanding referred to an understanding between Leith-Ross and the Vice-Minister to the effect that a British national will succeed Maze, Kishimoto will be made D.I.G. (Deputy Inspector-General) in the near future, a British national will succeed him as C.S., and at the same time Japanese personnel will be increased, but that since this is, of course, a Chinese administrative matter, it would remain as an understanding between Great Britain and Japan.

To the question of the Vice-Minister whether this understanding had already been submitted to the British Foreign Office by Leith-Ross, the Ambassador replied that the British Government had already approved it.

To the Vice-Minister's suggestion to put the purport of the above understanding into writing, Ambassador Knatchbull-Hugessen

DEF. DOC. #2026

replied that the above understanding should be sufficient and that putting it formally into writing may invite suspicion by the Chinese.

DEF. DOC. #2026

C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, HAYASHI, Kaoru, Chief of the Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached in Japanese consisting of 5 pages and entitled "Interview between Horiuchi, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the newly appointed English Ambassador to China, September 8, 1936." is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,
on this 17th day of January, 1947.

/s/ K. HAYASHI
Signature of Official

Witness: /s/ Nagahashi CDO

D.D. 2026

not used

堀内次官新任駐支英國大使會談ニ關スル件

(昭和一一、九、八日 島津記)

九月八日堀内次官本大臣ニ代リ(後志ノ爲)新任
駐支英國大使 CHR. HUGH M. KHAFOEBULL HUGHESSEN
ト會談シ(「クライヴ」大使同席)

先ヅ

一 同次官ヨリ蔣介石ニ對シテハ日本國內ニハ反蔣
ノ意見ヲ抱クモノナキニ非ルモ政府トシテハ之
ヲ排斥セントスルカ如キ意向ナク南京政府ヲ相
手トシテ必要ナル交渉ヲサントスル方針ニシ
テ現ニ川越大使ニ於テモ日支關係打開ノ爲交渉
ノ準備ヲナシツツアリタル矢先ニ今回不幸ニシ
テ威都事件ノ發生ヲ見ルニ至レル次第ナリ同事
件ハ排日運動ノ一表現ナルコト明ニシテ南京政
府ニ於テ之カ責任ヲ負ハサルヘカラサルコトハ
勿論ナルカ日本政府トシテハ之カ根源ヲ正ス爲
ニ南京政府ヲシテ誠意ヲ披瀝セシムルト共に自
發的ニ排日禁絶ノ有效手段ヲ講セシムルコトヲ
眼目トシテ本事件ノ解決ヲ計ラントスル方針ナ
リ從ツテ之ヲ契機トシテ其ノ他ノ問題ニ關スル
交渉ノ促進方ニモ期待シ居ル次第ナリト告ケ
ニ次ニ北支問題ニ付テハ政府トシテハ勿論事態ノ
改善ヲ希望シ居ル次第ニシテ此ノ點ニ付最近王

克復北上シテ觀察政體ニ關係セントシ居リ日本
側ニテハ同人カ今後南京ト北支トノ間ニ立チテ
右事態改善ニ貢獻スルニ至ランコトヲ希望シ居
ル次第ナリト説明シ

三 日本政府ハ支那ニ於テ日英ノ協力ヲ促進スル方
針ニシテ向國ニ於ケル日英利害調整ハ其ノ方法
ヲ見出し得ヘキモノト思ヒシ居リ我出先官意ニ
於テモ今後其ノ趣旨ニテ貴大使トノ協力ニ努ム
ヘク日本トシテハ多大ノ期待ヲ以テ貴大使ノ赴
任ヲ迎ヘル次第ナリト語レリ

四 之ニ對シ「ナ」大使ハ日本政府カ蔣介石ヲ相手
トシテ日支關係ノ調整ヲ計ラントスルコトヲ承
リ自分トシテモ極メテ厭ハシク存スル次第ニシ
テ自分ノ承知スル所ニテハ今日蔣ヲ逢イテハ支
那側ニ於テ責任ヲ以テ難局ニ處スル者ナカルヘ
ク日支間ノ適合ニ依リ事柄ノ調整ヲ見ルコトヲ
待ハ日支兩國ノミナラス其ノ他支那ニ利害ヲ有
スル其ノ他ノ國ニトツテモ定ニ厭フヘキ事ト思
考ス

五 次ニ支那ニ於ケル日英協力ニ付テハ素ヨリ英口
側ノ希望スル所ニシテ此ノ點ニ關シ適日自分ノ
出發前ニ「リースロフト」モ會議セルカ同人ハ
二度目ノ日英訪問ニヨリ相互ニ一層ヨク了解ス
ルコトヲ得同人ノ希望シタル問題ノ貫徹ニモ相

D.D.2026

D.D. 2026

當效果アリ殊ニ海關職員問題ニ關シテ日英間ニ
殆ント完全ニ了辦成立セルコトニ付頗ル満足シ
居レリ自分ノ了解スル所ニヨレハ右ハ「メーゾ
ノ後任ニハ英人ヲ以テスルト共ニ近キ將來ニ岸
本ヲD、E、Gトナシ、Fノ後任トシテハ英
人ヲ以テスルト共ニ日本人職員ヲ増員スルト云
フ趣旨ニシテ勿論右ハ支那ノ行政事項ナルカ之
ヲ日英間ノ了解トナシ僅ク趣旨ニシテ「リート
貴次官トノ間ニ適合アリタルコトト聞キ居レリ
ト云ヘルニ付次官ヨリ右ハ既ニ「リ」ニ於テ英
國外務省ニ提出シタル次第ナリヤト反問シタル
ニ英國政府トシテハ既ニ之ヲ承認シタル次第ナ
リト答ヘタルニ付然ラハ此ノ際右ノ趣旨ヲ改メ
テ正式ノ書翰トシテハ如何ト述ヘタルニ「ナ」
大ニハ右ノ了解ニテ充分ナルヘク改メテ之ヲ文書ニ直ス
コトハ却ツテ支那側ノ疑念ヲ招ク惧アルヘシト
答ヘ居リタリ